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Construction Industry News from City Hall

*Superintendent of Central Inspection
Kurt Schroeder*

ELEVATOR EMERGENCY SIGNALING DEVICES

The City of Wichita presently enforces the requirements of the 1999 edition of the Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators (ASME A17.1-1999) for all elevators, escalators, and related equipment that is installed, altered, repaired or maintained within the City.

This Code requires that all elevators must be provided with an audible signaling device and two-way conversation to an accessible point outside the hoistway. Section 211.1 of this Code contains the requirements for emergency operation and signaling devices installed in elevator cars. It states in part---

Rule 211.1 Car Emergency Signaling Devices.

Elevators shall be provided with the following signaling devices:

211.1 (a)(1). An audible signaling device, operable from the emergency stop switch, and from a switch marked "**ALARM**" which is located in or adjacent to each car operating panel. The switch marked "**ALARM**" shall illuminate when actuated. The signaling device shall be located inside the building and audible inside the car and outside the hoistway.

211.1 (a)(2). Means of two-way conversation between the car and a readily accessible point outside the hoistway which is available to emergency personnel (telephone, intercom, etc.). The means to activate the system does not have to be provided in the car.

211.1 (a)(3). If the audible signaling device(s), or the means of two-way conversation, or both, are normally connected to the building power supply, they shall automatically transfer to a source of standby or emergency power as required by the applicable building code after the normal power supply fails. The power source shall be capable of providing for the operation of the audible signaling device and illumination of the alarm switch for at least 1 hr., and the means of two-way conversation for at least 4 hrs.

211.1 (b). In buildings in which a building attendant (building employee, watchman, etc.) is not continuously available to take action when the required emergency signal is operated, the elevators shall be provided with a means within the car for communicating with or signaling to a service which is capable of taking appropriate action when a building attendant is not available.

The intent of the requirements in Rule 211.1(a)(2) is that the telephone or intercom is to be connected to a point where two-way conversation can be established by emergency personnel with

the occupants of the car, assuring them that help is on the way. A readily accessible point is a location which is accessible to emergency personnel. The intent of this requirement is so that emergency personnel have the ability to establish a communications link within the building to the car. The exact location is determined on a local basis. The emergency signaling system is used to signal a problem, and the communication system is then used to communicate with the occupants of the car in order to help alleviate fears, prevent panic, and prevent dangerous attempts to exit the car without assistance.

Also, additional requirements for emergency communications are found in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). These requirements address the needs of those with hearing and speech impairments, and states that the emergency intercommunication system shall not require voice communication. Therefore, each elevator car must have an ADAAG compliant hands free telephone. The use of a light indicating the call has been received and responded to, will provide a system that meets the intent of the hearing impaired. The light on the hands free telephone panel should only be illuminated or blink when activated by the recipient of the call. Those who are blind will be able to use the phone to hear that help is on the way.

Wayne L. Bolen, Construction Inspection Supervisor, Electrical/Elevator

RESIDENTIAL FRAMING

Top five corrections for residential framing inspections

1. Notches and holes bored in locations not allowed by the code

Walls-Notching and Boring. Exterior walls and bearing partitions, any wood stud may be cut or notched to a depth not to exceed 25% of its width. Cutting or notching of studs to a depth of not greater than 40% of the width is permitted in nonbearing partitions. **BORED HOLES** - A hole not greater than 40% of the studs width may be bored in any wood stud. Studs in nonbearing partitions may have holes bored up to 60% of their width. In no case shall the edge of the bored holes be nearer than 5/8 inch to the edge of the stud. Holes shall not be located in the same section of the stud as a cut or notch.

Rafters and joists-Notching and Boring. Notches at the ends of rafters and joists shall not exceed 1/4 the depth of the rafter or joist. Notches in the top or bottom shall not exceed 1/6 the depth and not be located in the middle 1/3 of the span. Holes bored in rafters and joists shall not be within 2 inches of the top or bottom edge and shall not exceed 1/3 the depth of the member.

2. Fire Blocking and Draft Stop Construction

Fire blocks. Fire blocks shall consist of 2" nominal lumber, two pieces of 1" nominal lumber, gypsum board, cement fiber board or other approved materials that are securely fastened in place.

Draft stops. Draft stops shall not be less than 1/2" gypsum board, 3/8" wood structural or Type 2-M particleboard or other approved material adequately supported.

3. Floor joist and rafters not fastened properly

Toenailing of joists to sills require three (3) 8d nails. Toenailing of rafters to wall plates require three (3) 8d nails. When using joist hangers, *all* of the nail holes in the hangers must be filled with approved hanger nails.

4. Wall wind bracing

Braced wall panels shall start not more than 8 feet from each end of a braced wall line. Construction of braced wall panels shall be by one of the methods found in Section 2320.11.3 of the 1997 Uniform Building Code. They are much to numerous to list in this article.

5. Basement wall sill plates and foundation bolts

The sill plate shall be a minimum of a 2x6 with 1/2" by 10" anchor bolts placed at 36" on center with a minimum of two anchor bolts per piece and within 12" of each end of each sill plate with washer and nut. The anchor bolts are to be set at the center line of the sill plate. One additional sill plate may be added provided the anchor bolts are of sufficient length.

Ray Hledge, Construction Inspection Supervisor, Building Section

ICBO SEMINAR - 2000 IBC

The City of Wichita-Office of Central Inspection, the Wichita Chapter of AIA & Kansas A.G.C. announces an **ICBO Seminar-2000 IBC Nonstructural Provisions: An overview and Perspective**. June 28th & 29th, 2001 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Century II Convention Center (room 101), Wichita, Ks.

This two-day seminar is designed to provide a broad overview of the nonstructural provisions of the 2000 International Building Code. It will be of special interest to anyone associated with the building construction industry: code regulatory agencies, design professionals, contractors, home builders and building owners. This seminar addresses the major elements of the IBC, including classification of buildings, means of egress, fire-resistive construction and fire-protection systems.

ICBO will be in the lobby with copies of their current publication available for sale. **AIA Members earn 36 LU's for completing this course.**

Cost for the two-day seminar is **\$120** & does not include lunch.

Registration space is limited. Please register early.

Fee must accompany application. Make Checks payable to: 2000 IBC Seminar
Please complete one application per person.

Return to: Loren Deines
Office Of Central Inspection
7th Floor City Hall
Wichita, Kansas 67202

Name: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____-____ Fax Number: (____) _____-____

If you are disabled, please attach a note outlining specific needs to make the seminar more accessible.

For additional information contact Loren Deines at 268-4477.

BOARD OF APPEALS OF: PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS/MECHANICAL

Request for variance. Anyone wanting to appear before either board to request a variance must first fill out a Request for Variance form. The forms are available upon request. The form should be submitted one (1) week prior to a regularly scheduled board meeting. An inspector or the Secretary of the Boards (Dan Leidy, Construction Inspection Supervisor, Mechanical/Plumbing Section) may assist with code references and wording for the variance request. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to attach copies of pictures, drawings and support documents as necessary to express the variance request. If more room is needed, the back of the form may also be used. At the discretion of either board, plans shall be prepared by a licensed engineer.

Dan Leidy, Construction Inspection Supervisor, Mechanical/Plumbing Section



CITY OF
WICHITA

www.wichitagov.org



OFFICE OF CENTRAL INSPECTION
CITY HALL - SEVENTH FLOOR
455 NORTH MAIN STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202



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